

H A L T

HAZARD LERT IVE OMORROW

SURFACE SAFETY ALERT!!

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN



From 2000 through July 2003, three (3) fatalities have occurred at Virginia coal mines. Two of the victims were coal truck drivers and the third victim was operating 150-ton hauler.

In the photos illustrated above, a contract coal truck driver (driver/operator) received serious injuries and died two weeks later due to complications from severe internal compression injuries. The victim had recently installed new brake shoes on the truck. He stated that he placed the welded coal truck rims underneath the truck bed and raised the bed to elevate the tires necessary to make brake adjustments. The rims creeled allowing the truck to roll backwards pinning the victim. The accident area appeared to be level but was calculated to be approximately a 1.4% grade.

REMEMBER: Always ensure equipment operators receive thorough training on the operational characteristics, potential hazards and safety precautions associated with site specific equipment.

- Thorough training should be conducted on all operational characteristics, manufacturer's performance specifications and capabilities/limitations of equipment.
- Equipment operators should be trained on how to conduct an equipment walk-around inspection prior to operating, to identify **potential hazards** including mechanical problems, fluid leaks and damaged or defective safety devices.
- Proper training should be given on braking and retarder systems. A thorough understanding of braking and retarder systems is **critical** to safe operation.
- All equipment raised for repairs or other work shall be adequately secured prior to performing work underneath such equipment.
- All equipment shall be securely blocked against accidental movement prior to persons positioning themselves where the movement of such equipment could create a hazardous condition.
- Brakes should be adjusted following procedures recommended by the manufacturer.

PLEASE POST "2003"

For additional information or assistance, contact the Division of Mines, Big Stone Gap (276) 523-8227 or Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533

ACCIDENT
REDUCTION PROGRAM

